



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1945.

The largest gross receipts ever recorded at a single sale of Government-owned fur-seal and fox skins were reported from the annual fall public auction held on October 8 by the Fouke Fur Company at St. Louis, Mo., the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The receipts totaled \$1,582,583.50.

For the account of the United States Government, 23,408 sealskins and 316 fox skins from the Pribilof Islands were sold. The sealskins offered included 12,508 matara brown finish, 8,800 safari brown, 2,100 black, 5 Alaska fur-seal skins dressed in hair, and one Northwest Coast fur-seal skin sold raw. These brought \$1,578,346.50. Eleven white fox skins and 305 blue were sold for \$4,237.

At this first auction held since the suspension of fur ceiling prices by OPA, the matara skins averaged \$69.04, with a top price of \$91.50; the safari skins averaged \$66.52, with a top price of \$90.25, while the blacks averaged \$61.63, with a top of \$110. All sealskins advanced 87.7 per cent over the sale held at April in St. Louis.

Compared with the April sale, the October figures represent an advance in average price of \$33.19 for black skins; \$32.60 for matara, and \$29.82 for safari. For all colors the total average was \$67.43, as compared with the over-all average of \$35.80 for the sale last spring. The total average price of all sealskins advanced 39.7 per cent above the last pre-war open auction sale held in September, 1941, before OPA price ceilings were applied.

All of the sealskins sold at the October auction were taken in 1943, except the five dressed in hair which were from the 1941 take. Bidding by the 155 buyers registered in attendance at the sale was active at all times.

XXX